

our veterans have access to the training, the assistance, and the capital to start and manage a business.

Congress passed The Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 establishing the National Veterans Business Development Corporation to provide all of these crucial aspects of entrepreneurship to veterans.

As a result of that landmark legislation, the Veterans Corporation has provided training to over 8,000 veterans and has helped over 550 veterans start businesses during 2006 alone.

Unfortunately, Congress has yet to reauthorize the Veterans Corporation, leaving its funding in question each year.

It was an honor to offer an amendment to the Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for 2007 (H.R. 5672) in June increasing its funding to \$1.5 million for the next fiscal year.

Now, I join with Mr. EVANS and Ms. HERSETH to introduce legislation ensuring funding for this worthy program through 2012.

By passing this legislation, we can make sure our brave service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan will have access to entrepreneurship training.

Those who are courageously fighting abroad deserve the opportunity to start a business and achieve that aspect of the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you to act on this legislation and encourage business ownership for veterans.

COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to call on my colleagues in Congress to refocus their efforts on comprehensive immigration reform. What we need is not to debate and pass a bunch of bills that duplicate legislation already passed by the House—legislation that has little chance of passage in the Senate. What we need is to get back on track with what the bipartisan 9/11 Commission has repeatedly called for—comprehensive immigration reform. Only when we enact comprehensive reform will we be truly effective in securing our Nation's borders.

Today we are considering three bills, which do little to fix our Nation's illegal immigration problems. We need to do more, and we need to do it in a sensible, bipartisan and comprehensive fashion. The American people expect Congress to secure our borders, and that extends to understanding who currently resides in our country and why they are here. Just as importantly, in considering border security legislation, we need to focus on securing weapons of mass destruction to ensure they do not make their way through our ports of entry. I find it redundant and unnecessary that we are going back to consider legislation that has already been passed by this body when there is so much unfinished business we ought to be focusing on.

We need to focus on "smart security" and develop a comprehensive plan. I continue to

support the Kolbe-Flake-Gutierrez bill, which is a broad and multi-faceted approach to securing our borders. Under this legislation, we would hire and train more border patrol agents to secure our borders, improve our surveillance technology, and require employers to verify the status of their employees. This proactive approach ensures we keep those wishing to harm us out of our country and allows us to ascertain precisely who is in our country and why they are here.

We also need to refocus our efforts on monitoring exactly which materials come through our borders. As the lead Democrat on the Subcommittee for the Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack, I have called for the installation of radiation portal monitors at designated ports of entry to screen all inbound cargo for radiological or nuclear materials. I am dedicated to ensuring we have this important technology at every entry point.

However, instead of addressing these real problems, the Republican leadership has chosen to bring up legislation that we have already passed—not because they want a solution to our immigration problem, but because they need to distract the American public from their inability to accomplish any real reforms. My Democratic colleagues and I have fought for increased funding for more border patrol agents, detention beds, and immigration and customs agents, but Republicans have voted against those efforts 10 times.

I call on my colleagues to refocus their efforts to enact a comprehensive immigration plan. Time in the 109th Congress is quickly running out, and we are doing our country a disservice when we focus on political rhetoric instead of real solutions. It is time to get back on track with what the bipartisan 9/11 Commission has tasked us with—comprehensive reform.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REV. J. BAZZEL MULL

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2006

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, Rev. J. Bazzel Mull, a true Tennessee legend and Southern gospel icon, passed away on September 5 at the age of 91.

Just five days later, he and his beloved wife, Elizabeth, would have celebrated their 62nd anniversary.

No couple could have been more loyal to each other than they were, and Rev. Mull's most famous line was "ain't that right, Mrs. Mull?"

Rev. Mull served God and the people of East Tennessee throughout his life.

He brought enjoyment to millions through his television programs, his radio stations, and his live gospel music shows.

Through all this, as well as his personal testimony, cheerfully overcoming blindness, he led countless numbers to a closer walk with Jesus Christ.

He had a great sense of humor and once told me on his TV program that no one should be a mugwump. He said that was "a fellow with his mug on one side of the fence and his wump on the other."

This Nation is a better place today because of the life of Rev. J. Bazzel Mull.

I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD the story by Doug Mason which was published in the Knoxville News Sentinel on September 6.

[From KnoxNews, Sept. 6, 2006]

SOUTHERN GOSPEL MUSIC ICON DIES AT 91

(By Doug Mason)

"Ain't that right, Mizz Mull?"

The Rev. J. Bazzel Mull, who died Tuesday at age 91, may be the most quoted man in East Tennessee.

For 60 years, his gravel-truck voice was a staple of regional radio and TV, and his familiar query to his wife and "Mull Singing Convention" co-host was a much-mimicked catchphrase to generations of East Tennesseans.

Elizabeth Mull was best known as "Mizz Mull" or "Lady Mull" to listeners of the "Mull Singing Convention" broadcasts. The couple would have celebrated their 62nd anniversary on Sunday.

J. Bazzel Mull (the "J" stood for Jacob) was born Oct. 4, 1914, in Burke County, N.C. He began preaching in 1939 and moved to Knoxville in 1942, where he began a radio program on radio station WROL-AM. Later, he was heard on WNOX-AM.

The Rev. Mull owned several East Tennessee radio stations during his long career. At the time of his death, he was the owner of gospel radio station WJBZ, Praise 96.3, in Knoxville.

"The Mull Singing Convention," which moved to television in 1956, is still broadcast at 7 a.m. Sundays on WVLTV, Channel 8. The program was seen on WBIR, Channel 10, before moving a few years ago to WVLTV.

"The Mull Singing Convention" celebrated its 50th anniversary in August. The Rev. Mull's grandson, Doug Hutchison, said the program is confirmed as the longest-running locally produced television show in the United States.

Elizabeth Mull and daughter Charlotte Mull Hutchison now host the program. The Rev. Mull withdrew from the TV show, and from his Sunday evening preaching service on WJBZ, after suffering a stroke about nine months ago.

Hutchison said his grandfather's stroke brought on dementia. Several other strokes followed, including one about a week and a half ago that left the Rev. Mull unresponsive. He was moved from the hospital to a nursing home, where he died at 4:30 a.m. Tuesday.

The Rev. Mull was a businessman who promoted Southern gospel music concerts and published and distributed a series of six "Mull's Singing Convention" songbooks. The latest hymnal was published as "Number 7" in the series, even though it followed edition No. 5.

"He didn't like the number 6," said Hutchison, who explained that he doesn't know why (perhaps it was because 666 is the biblical Mark of the Beast).

"For a blind man to achieve as much as he did, he was bound to have some eccentricities," said Hutchison, who manages WJBZ and the other Mull family enterprises.

The Rev. Mull lost his sight at 11 months old, the result of falling into an open-pit fire. "Through his 20s he could tell daylight from dark," Hutchison said. "But from his early 30s on, he was completely blind."

Hutchison said that many people didn't realize his grandfather was blind. In public, he wore oversized glasses with thick lenses—possibly to obscure the fact that he often had his eyelids closed during his TV broadcasts, Hutchison theorized.

"He was never one to bring to the forefront his handicap," the grandson said. "I talk to people still today that did not know he was blind."